

ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on the analysis of the changes of Franz Kafka's reception in the Czech context before World War II, i. e. on the analysis of Czech translations and critical reflections in Czech language of his works. The study is divided into two symmetrical (in time) parts: the first one focuses on Kafka's reception in his lifetime (1909–1922), the second one on the reception after his death (1924–1939). In the first part, translations of Kafka's office publications are analyzed in the context of their origin, Kafka's part (as an author) in the formation of the original texts as a source for their translation and set in the context of his belletristic works; in the prosopographically oriented analysis the aim is further focused on the reception of Kafka's belletristic texts in his lifetime and on different strategies of translation by authors who translated his texts into Czech during his lifetime (Milena Jesenská, Milena Illová, Jaroslav Dohnal), Kafka's responses and how they are reflected in his work. The analysis in the second part is structured mainly according to the tendencies of reception whose focus shifts gradually from expressionist to surrealistic interpretations; the analysis of gradual changes of Kafka's image in the Czech press which reflects the changing reception of his figure and work clearly demonstrates that in the 1930s Kafka was not an unknown author in any respect and that the notion and interest in his work in the Czech intellectual milieu before World War II was increasingly growing.

Keywords: Franz Kafka; literary criticism; Czech translations